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APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. IATION NO. 10/657,795 09/05/2003 William J. Clemens CLE-10002/29

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03/23/2004

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EXAMINER WALTON, GEORGE L

PAPER NUMBER

ART UNIT 3753

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

.4		1.6
	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/657,795	CLEMENS, WILLIAM J.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	George L. Walton	3753
The MAILING DATE of this communication Period for Reply	appears on the cover sheet w	vith the correspondence address
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RETHE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CF after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, and If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period for reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by so Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the integrand patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ON. R 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a n. a reply within the statutory minimum of thi eriod will apply and will expire SIX (6) MOI tatute, cause the application to become A	reply be timely filed rty (30) days will be considered timely. NTHS from the mailing date of this communication. BANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
Status		
 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on	This action is non-final. Dwance except for formal mat	•
Disposition of Claims		
4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the applica 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are with 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction are	drawn from consideration.	
Application Papers		
9) The specification is objected to by the Exar 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) Applicant may not request that any objection to Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the co	accepted or b) objected to the drawing(s) be held in abeya rrection is required if the drawing	nce. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). g(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119		
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for force a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority docum 2. Certified copies of the priority docum 3. Copies of the certified copies of the application from the International Bu * See the attached detailed Office action for a	nents have been received. nents have been received in a priority documents have beer reau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	Application No n received in this National Stage
Attachment(s) 1) \(\overline{\text{N}} \) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) \(\overline{\text{N}} \) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	•	Summary (PTO-413) (s)/Mail Date
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SE Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/22/04.	′	Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 6-14 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Braley (4,380243 or 4,4418,712). The receptacle plug is readable on element 33 and the enclosure is readable on element 30. The sensors or detectors are readable on elements 16 and 52. Element 31 is readable on the audible alarm. Elements 22 and 23 are readable on the test and reset switches. Also, element 18 is readable on a relay switch and element 24 is readable on a visual alarm. Note that the plug receptacle has multiple plug adaptors or outlet connections for the elements P, 25 and 52. Note that element 35 is an additional plug outlet.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

Determining the scope and contents of the prior art. 1.

- 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
- Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art. 3.
- Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness 4. or nonobviousness.

Claims 4, 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braley, as recited above, in view of Conrath. The above claims are readable on the patent to Braley with the single exception of having a vibration sensor on a washing appliance. The patent to Conrath teaches the above exception. In view of the teaching of Conrath, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the above exception to the device of Braley as taught by element 22 and 24, if desired. Note that Conrath teaches that various types of vibration sensors can be utilized (see column 3, lines 1-4). Therefore, the claimed type of vibration sensor is merely an obvious design expedient in view of the above teaching. Such modification provides no unobvious or unexpected result.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braley, as recited above, in view of Doumit (6,147,613) or Doumit et al (6,526,807). The above claims are readable on the patent to Braley with the single exception of having electrical components interfacing with sensors having transistors arranged in a Darlington configuration. The patent to Doumit or Doumit et al teaches the above exception. In view of the teaching of Doumit or Doumit et al, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the above exception to the device of Braley as taught by column 10, lines 1-65 of Doumit or as taught by column 14, lines 1-53 of Doumit et al, if desired. Note that Conrath teaches that various types of vibration sensors can be utilized (see column 3, lines 1-4). Therefore, the claimed type of vibration sensor is merely an obvious design expedient in view of the above teaching. Such teaching provides no unobvious or unexpected result.

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Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to George L. Walton whose telephone number is 703-308-2596.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Dave Scherbel can be reached on 703-308-1272. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-746-4603.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

George L. Walton Primary Examiner

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GLW